

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN SA 02190 042138Z

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /056 W

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R 042114Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8252

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 2190

E.O. 11652 - GDS

TAGS: PINT, MPOL, ELAB, ES

SUBJ: UCS SEEKS TO EXERCISE ITS POLITICAL MUSCLE

REF: SAN SALVADOR A-74

1. AN UNORTHODOX EFFORT IS UNDERWAY TO PROMOTE THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDACY OF LT COL JOAQUIN EVELIO FLORES AMAYA, AS DARK A HORSE AS THERE EVER WAS. THE CAMPAIGN IS BEING ORCHESTRATED BY SANTA ANA COFFEEGROWER LEONEL GOMEZ VIDES AND HAS AT LEAST THE QUALIFIED SUPPORT OF THE UNION COMUNAL SALVADORENA (UCS), EL SALVADOR'S LEADING CAMPESINO ORGANIZATION. THE EFFORT MARKS A SHARP BREAK WITH THE UCS' TRADITIONAL APOLITICAL, NONPARTISAN STANCE AND INVOLVES A NUMBER OF RISKS OF WHICH THE UCS LEADERSHIP SEEMS ONLY DIMLY AWARE. FLORES AMAYA AND UCS LEADERS

HAVE MET SEPARATELY WITH PRESIDENT MOLINA AND ARE ENCOURAGED BY THE GOVERNMENT'S APPARENT DECISION TO BE MORE ATTENTIVE TO THE UCS.

2. THE EMBASSY IS MAINTAINING CONTACT WITH THE PRINCIPALS IN ORDER TO MONITOR THE PROGRESS OF THIS MANEUVER, WHICH IS UNPRECEDENTED IN SALVADORAN POLITICAL HISTORY. AT THE SAME TIME, WE ARE CONCERNED BY GOMEZ'S FRANKLY ADMITTED INTENTION TO CREATE THE IMPRESSION THAT FLORES AMAYA IS THE CANDIDATE OF THE US GOVERNMENT. THE MISSION, OF COURSE, INTENDS TO MAINTAIN ITS POSITION OF STRICT NON-INTERVENTION IN SALVADORAN DOMESTIC POLITICAL AFFAIRS AS WELL AS ITS NONPARTISAN

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PAGE 02 SAN SA 02190 042138Z

IMAGE. EMBASSY OFFICERS ARE EXERCISING APPROPRIATE CIRCUMSPECTION

IN THEIR CONTACTS AND THE AMBASSADOR HAS CONVEYED A MESSAGE TO
PRESIDENT MOLINA IN A LOW-KEY FASHION OF THE EMBASSY'S NON-
INTERVENTIONIST POSITION AND CONCERN THAT CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS
OR GROUPS MIGHT BE FALSELY CLAIMING THE POLITICAL SUPPORT OF
ENDORSEMENT OF THE EMBASSY.

3. AIRGRAM CONTAINING FULLEST AVAILABLE INFORMATION AND
PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS BEING POUCHED JUNE 5.
MOSKOWITZ

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NNN

Message Attributes

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